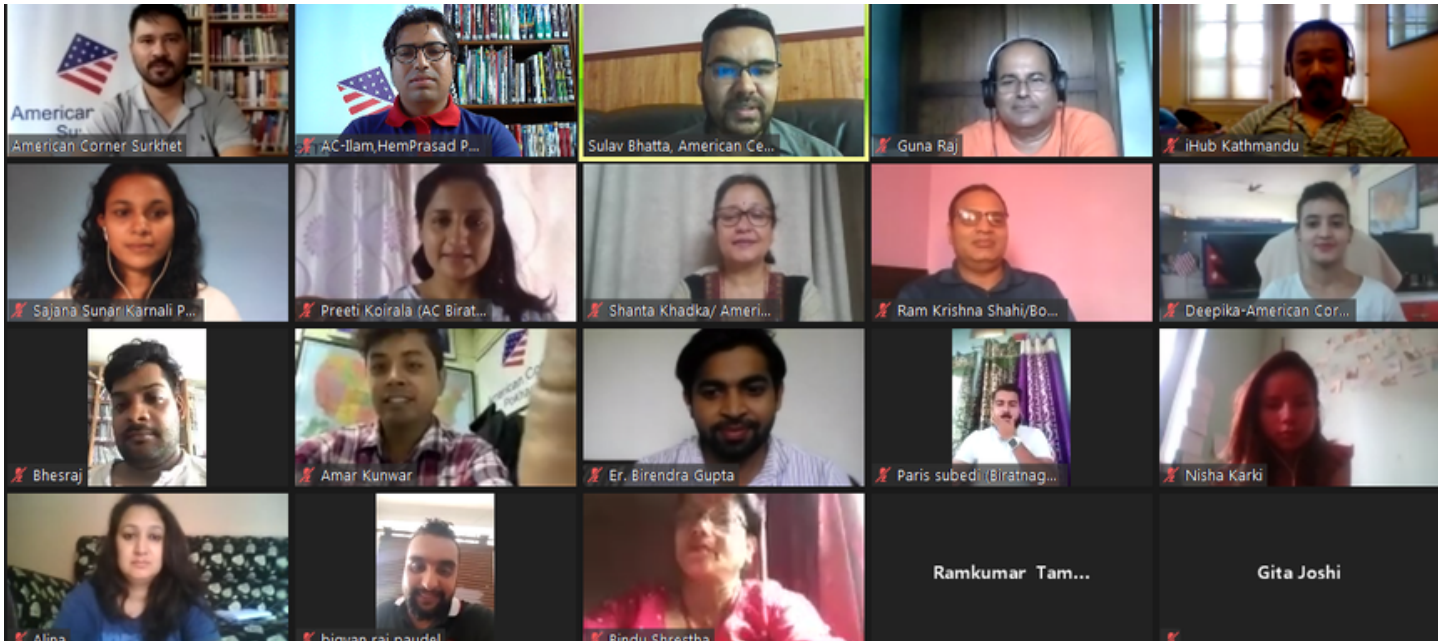




AMERICAN CENTER

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WELCOME NOTE

American Spaces Nepal

Namaste!

Thank you for subscribing to our American Spaces Newsletter. Can you believe that it's already September? We hope you and your families continue to stay safe during this time. The American Spaces team across Nepal continues to work to develop virtual programs that will resonate with you. If you have suggestions or ideas to share, feel free to contact us. Keep your ears open for the re-emergence of our virtual Book Club- Books Beyond Borders towards the end of the month.

As the lock-down moves into a new phase across Nepal, we will continue to provide virtual programming until we are able to open our Spaces to the public. In the meantime, we welcome you all to join us virtually as we hear from subject matter experts and discuss topics that impact Nepali youth.

To register for our programs, please click on the given link (Register). We post our programs in our respective Corner Facebook pages (<https://np.usembassy.gov/education-culture/american-spaces/>), so keep checking the page for additional program postings. And feel free to share the American Center [Newsletter Subscription link](https://rb.gy/el55li) (<https://rb.gy/el55li>) with interested folks.

Sincerely,
American Spaces Team



NATIONAL LIBRARY DAY IN NEPAL

To celebrate National Library Day in Nepal, the American Spaces hosted a Facebook Live event where we heard from the Chief Librarian at Tribhuvan University, American Spaces program strategist, and the Web Services Librarian at the Boston Public Library. All three speakers spoke about the delivery of services prior to COVID-19 and the challenges they have faced in migrating to the online environment. The event was an opportunity for practitioners to learn best practices on how to serve the needs of their users and to hear what other like minded institutions have done to navigate the new landscape.

PAST PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

On August 7, the American Spaces team organized a **teachers' training** for teachers across Nepal. Mr. Mukunda Kumar Giri led the training. The discussion focused on ways to engage students in meaningful ways and how to embed contemporary challenges, such as food security, and possible solutions into their curriculum. Sharing his lessons from the Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) exchange program, Giri highlighted how project-based learning is interesting to students as it turns the whole world into a classroom and facilitates independent learning.

In the **Contextator: Episode 5**, Subhanga Pandey (acting editor at Himal Southasian) shared his insights on the fate of print media and journalism in South Asia. After giving a brief historical context about media trends around the world, Pandey talked about how both the consumption and content of media have shifted to social media platforms, resulting in a decline in print media. He stressed how modern technology has disrupted good journalism by spreading misinformation and fake content and affecting democratic structures and practices. Furthermore, he commented that broadcast media has benefited from COVID, as television is seen as a more credible source of information in Nepal. Over 1,600 viewers watched the Facebook live conversation which is available at <https://www.facebook.com/qcbookshop/videos/2723238107944373>

Episode 6, a three-part mini-series on "Understanding Federalism in Nepal" aired live on Facebook on August 16. In the episode, political scientist and leading commentator Prof. Krishna Khanal joined us to outline the major political ideas and events that have shaped Nepal's transition from a centralized unitary state to a federal republic. Prof. Khanal noted that even though the constitution of 1990 was a fundamental step for Nepal to be recognized as a multicultural, multilingual, and multi-religious country, the enshrined rights have yet to be fully upheld. Prof. Khanal pointed out that federalism built on the Madhesi and Janajati movements in the mid and late 2000s.

<https://www.facebook.com/qcbookshop/videos/5892098150>

PAST PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

On August 2nd, **Breaking the Bracket (BTB)** workshops resumed online after a three months break. BTB is a year-long feminist writing program that brings together writers to collect, retell, and write folk stories for young readers attempting to break stereotypical portrayals of women. The two-hour session focused on feminism in writing and what a feminist text in stories and tales for young children could look like. For the upcoming session, participants will explore providing constructive criticism as a way to help each other grow and improve as writers. These sessions will prepare the group to start writing their stories from September.

On the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on Sunday, August 9th, the seventh episode of our virtual talk series '**Sunday Sessions**' featured a writer, researcher, and indigenous rights activist Tashi Tewa Dolpo, a Ph.D. student who was awarded the Mr. & Mrs. Spencer T. Fellowship in Anthropology at Washington University in Saint Louis. He joined in from the United States and led an important conversation on indigenous stories, the rights of indigenous people, and the power structures that have historically suppressed indigenous groups and continue to do so. Tashi also talked about his academic journey and his use of writing, photography, and film-making to tell the stories of indigenous communities in Dolpa, Nepal.

<https://www.facebook.com/qcbookshop/videos/431477926526252>

YOUTH CONVENTION: SHARING, LEARNING, AND IMPLEMENTING

To mark the International Youth Day (Aug. 12), American Spaces Nepal organized a virtual gathering of youth titled, Youth Convention: Sharing, Learning, and Implementing. The goal of the program was to provide a platform for dynamic youth from across Nepal to inspire one another. The participants shared motivating stories of overcoming personal hurdles and contributing to their local communities. These stories ranged from establishing a library, to helping needy people during COVID to overcoming physical disabilities. As a means to continue the conversation, a WhatsApp group was created.

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AN ONLINE BOOK
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